Listing of Claims

The following is a copy of Applicants' claims that identifies language being added with underlining ("___") and language being deleted with strikethrough ("—"), as is applicable:

1. (Previously Presented) An appliance for monitoring equipment comprising:

first means for receiving data from said equipment;

second means for receiving a set of configuration data, wherein said second means includes a communication module; and

third means for processing said equipment data in accordance with a plurality of optional services, wherein said configuration data is adapted to enable or disable said optional services, wherein said appliance is adapted to restart upon receiving a restart signal from said communication module.

2. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said third means includes:

software for processing said equipment data, said software including one or more software components, each software component for performing an optional service;

fourth means for storing said software; and

fifth means for executing said software in accordance with said configuration data, which is adapted to enable or disable said software components.

3. (Original) The invention of claim 2 wherein said fourth means is a memory.

4. (Original) The invention of claim 3 wherein said memory is also adapted to store said configuration data.

5. (Original) The invention of claim 2 wherein said fifth means is a processor.

6. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said first means includes one or more data ports.

7. (Original) The invention of claim 6 wherein said data ports are also adapted to transmit data to said equipment.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said appliance further includes means for transmitting data to a remote system.

10. (Original) The invention of claim 2 wherein said appliance further includes means for receiving new or upgraded software components.

11. (Original) The invention of claim 10 wherein said configuration data is adapted to enable or disable a new or upgraded software component.

12. (Original) The invention of claim 4 wherein said software is adapted to restart said appliance after receiving and storing said configuration data.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 1 wherein said appliance is adapted to receive said configuration data from said communication module during a restart process.

15. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 1 wherein said appliance is adapted to receive and store new or upgraded software components from said communication module during a restart process.

16. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 1 wherein said communication module is coupled to an internet connection.

17. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 1 wherein said communication module is coupled to a dial-up connection.

18. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said communication module is coupled to a wireless connection.

19. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said appliance is a stand-alone device separate from said equipment.

20. (Original) The invention of claim 1 wherein said equipment includes one or more printers.

21. (Original) An appliance for monitoring equipment comprising:

a data port for receiving data from said equipment;

a communication module for receiving one or more software components, each software component for processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service, and for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components;

a memory for storing said software components; and

a processor for executing said software components in accordance with said configuration data.

22. (Previously Presented) An appliance for monitoring one or more office equipment devices comprising:

a data port for receiving data from an equipment device;

software adapted primarily for monitoring said equipment devices, said software including one or more software components, each software component for processing equipment data in accordance with an optional service;

a communication module for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components, wherein said software components comprise at least software with instructions for monitoring a different appliance;

a memory for storing said software; and

a processor for executing said software in accordance with said configuration data.

23. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring equipment comprising:

one or more monitoring appliances adapted to monitor said equipment, each monitoring appliance including:

first means for receiving data from said equipment;

second means for receiving a set of configuration data; and

third means for processing said equipment data in accordance with a plurality of optional services, wherein said configuration data is adapted to enable or disable said optional services, wherein said third means includes:

software for processing said equipment data, said software including one or more software components, each software component for performing an optional service, wherein said software is adapted to restart said monitoring appliance after receiving and storing said configuration data;

a memory for storing said software; and

a processor for executing said software in accordance with said configuration data, which is adapted to enable or disable said software components; and

fourth means for transmitting said configuration data to said monitoring appliances.

24. (Original) The invention of claim 23 wherein said fourth means includes a central server.

25. (Original) The invention of claim 24 wherein said central server includes a first database of configuration data for the monitoring appliances.

26. (Original) The invention of claim 25 wherein a user can change which services in a monitoring appliance are enabled or disabled by modifying the configuration data for that monitoring appliance stored in said first database.

27. (Original) The invention of claim 25 wherein said central server includes an application for modifying the configuration data stored in said first database.

28. (Original) The invention of claim 27 wherein said application is a web application.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The invention of claim 29 wherein said central server includes a second database of new or upgraded software components.

31. (Original) The invention of claim 30 wherein said monitoring appliances further include means for receiving new or upgraded software components from said central server.

32. (Original) The invention of claim 31 wherein said configuration data is adapted to enable or disable a new or upgraded software component.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 23 wherein said software is adapted to restart said monitoring appliance upon receiving a restart signal from said central server.

35. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 24 wherein said software is adapted to receive and store said configuration data from said central server during a restart process.

36. (Previously Presented) The invention of claim 24 wherein said software is adapted to receive and store new or upgraded software components from said central server during a restart process.

37. (Previously Presented) A system for monitoring office equipment comprising:

one or more monitoring appliances adapted to monitor said office equipment, each monitoring appliance including:

a data port for receiving data from said equipment;

appliance software adapted primarily for monitoring said equipment, said software including one or more software components, each software component for processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service, wherein said optional service includes functionality for monitoring a different appliance;

a first communication module for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components;

a first memory for storing said appliance software; and

a first processor for executing said software in accordance with said configuration data; and

a central server including:

server software for controlling the communication of data to and from said monitoring appliances;

a first database of configuration data for said monitoring appliances;

a second memory for storing said server software and said first database;

a second processor for executing said server software; and

a second communication module for transmitting said configuration data to said monitoring appliances.

38. (Original) The invention of claim 37 wherein said central server further includes an application for modifying the configuration data stored in said first database.

39. (Original) The invention of claim 37 wherein said central server further includes a second database of new or upgraded software components.

40. (Original) The invention of claim 39 wherein said first and second communication means are also adapted to download new or upgraded software components from said central server to said monitoring appliances.

41. (Original) The invention of claim 40 wherein said configuration data is adapted to enable or disable a new or upgraded software component.

42. (Original) A system for monitoring office equipment comprising:

one or more monitoring appliances adapted to monitor said office equipment, each monitoring appliance including:

a data port for receiving data from said equipment;

a first communication module for receiving one or more software components, each software component for processing said equipment data in accordance with an optional service, and for receiving a set of configuration data adapted to enable or disable said software components;

a first memory for storing said software components; and

a first processor for executing said software components in accordance with said configuration data; and

a central server including:

server software for controlling the communication of data to and from said monitoring appliances;

a first database of configuration data for said monitoring appliances;

a second database of software components for said monitoring appliances;

a second memory for storing said server software and said first and second databases;

a second processor for executing said server software; and

a second communication module for transmitting said configuration data and said software components to said monitoring appliances.

43. (Original) A method for remotely configuring a monitoring appliance for monitoring equipment including the steps of:

storing a plurality of configurable software components in said monitoring appliance, each software component for performing a function of said monitoring appliance;

storing, in a central server, configuration data that determines which software components are enabled or disabled;

downloading said configuration data from said central server to said monitoring appliance; and

restarting said monitoring appliance with said software components enabled for or disabled from execution in accordance with said configuration data.

44. (Original) The invention of claim 43 wherein a user can change which software components are enabled or disabled by modifying the configuration data stored in the central server.

45. (Original) The invention of claim 43 wherein said method further includes the steps of:

storing new or upgraded software components in said central server;

downloading said new or upgraded software components from said central server to said monitoring appliance; and

installing said new or upgraded software components in said appliance.

46. (Original) The invention of claim 45 wherein said configuration data is adapted to enable or disable a new or upgraded software component.